

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Claims 3-34, 39, 40, 43-45, 48-50, 53-57, 60-64, 67-70, 73-78, 81-84, 87-92 and 95-98 are pending. Claims 3, 6, 9, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27, 31, 39, 44, 49, 56, 63, 69, 77, 83 and 91 are the independent claims.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13-15, 17, 18, 20-22, 24, 25, 27-29, 31-33, 35, 39, 40, 44, 45, 49, 50, 56, 57, 63, 64, 69, 70, 77, 83, 84, 91 and 92 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent 5,790,574 (Rieger '574) in view of U.S. Patent 6,281,471 (Smart). Claims 5, 8, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious from Rieger '574 in view of Smart and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,404,787 (Unternahrer et al.). Claims 43, 48, 53, 60, 67, 73, 81, 87 and 95 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious from Rieger '574 in view of Smart and Unternahrer et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,710,787 (Amada et al.). Claims 54, 55, 61, 62, 74, 75, 88, 89, 96 and 97 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious from Rieger '574 in view of Smart and Amada et al. Claims 68, 76, 82, 90 and 98 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious from Rieger '574 in view of Smart and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,742,634 (Rieger '634). Applicants submit that the independent claims are patentable over the cited art for at least the following reasons.

Claim 3 is directed to a method for repairing a pattern using a laser comprising: identifying a defect in the pattern; slicing a single laser pulse or multi-laser pulses from a string of pulses making up laser light emitted from a Q-switched mode-locked pulse laser by using an optical modulator; and applying the laser light having the sliced single pulse or the sliced multi-laser pulses as laser light to the defect to remove the defect for repair processing.

A salient feature of claim 3 is slicing a single laser pulse or multi-laser pulses from a string of pulses making up laser light emitted from a Q-switched mode-locked pulse by using an optical modulator.

The Office Action conceded that Rieger '574 does not teach pulse slicing. However, the position was taken that the recited slicing step was met by the optical modulator 80 of Rieger '574. This is incorrect.

For a combination of references to render a claim obvious, the references must teach or suggest every feature, and those features must be shown in the same relationship to one another as is claimed, since each claim must be examined as a whole.

In the Office Action, the position was taken that Smart supplies the missing slicing feature and therefore remedies the deficiency by its teaching of pulse slicing. However, Smart uses its pulse slicer to shape the individual pulses to reduce the tails (see e.g., col. 16, lines 15 through 23). That is, *individual pulses* are *shaped* by the pulse slicer. However, Smart neither teaches nor suggests of slicing off, or extracting, of a pulse or pulses from a pulse train, and applying light having the extracted pulses to the defect, as in claim 3. (See, e.g., specification at page 33, line 5 through page 34, line 6.) For at least this reason, no prima facie case of obviousness has been set forth.

The other independent claims each recite a similar feature and are believed patentable for substantially similar reasons.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

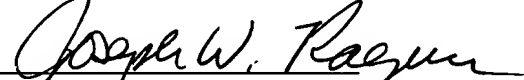
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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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